Creating a **Culture of Research** in Your Classroom

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Susan Wengler
Agenda

1. Communicate and demystify
2. Recognize students’ challenges and obstacles
3. Create effective research assignments
4. Collaborate
5. Champion student research
1. Communicate & demystify

“Research is formalized curiosity. It is poking and prying with a purpose.”—Zora Neale Hurston

1. Communicate & demystify

A non-linear adventure

what people think it looks like

what it really looks like

1. Communicate & demystify

Situated across all disciplines
1. Communicate & demystify

Attainable and relatable
What does it mean to be a student in the digital age?

2. Recognize students’ challenges & obstacles

Coming up with keywords to narrow down searches on the academic library portal

Filtering and sorting through irrelevant results from online searches

Identifying/selecting potential sources and investigative methods from all available

2. Recognize students’ challenges & obstacles

PROJECT INFORMATION LITERACY
A national study about college students’ research habits
Since 2008, we have surveyed over 11,000 students at more than 50 U.S. colleges and universities to study how they find and use information for courses and in their daily lives.

WHAT IS MOST DIFFICULT ABOUT RESEARCH?
84% GETTING STARTED

WHAT OTHER SOURCES DO STUDENTS USE FOR COURSE RESEARCH?
- 88% DATABASES
- 83% INSTRUCTORS
- 30% LIBRARIANS

WHAT DO STUDENTS DO IN THE LIBRARY DURING CRUNCH TIME?
- 81% CHECK MESSAGES
- 73% PREPARE ASSIGNMENTS
- 62% STUDY & REVIEW

7 OUT OF 10 STUDENTS USE WIKIPEDIA
92% SEARCH ENGINES
2. Recognize students’ challenges & obstacles

- fear, angst, tired, dread, excited, anxious, annoyed, stressed, disgusted, intrigued, confused, & overwhelmed.

12 Adjectives Students Use to Describe How They Feel About Research Assignments

http://projectinfolit.org
3. Create effective research assignments

Characteristics of a strong assignment
• Clarity
• Correct and unambiguous terminology
• Currency
• Reasonable time frame
• Guidelines on where to go for help

A strong research assignment “has a specific, understood purpose.”
3. Create effective research assignments

A strong research assignment “relates to some aspect of course subject matter or learning objectives.”

3. Create effective research assignments

A strong research assignment “leads to increased understanding of a subject or the process of locating information related to a subject.”

3. Create effective research assignments

A strong research assignment “makes students aware of the variety of information sources and formats available (e.g., print, electronic, microform, video).”

3. Create effective research assignments

A strong research assignment “teaches students to select and evaluate quality information sources appropriate to their topics.”

3. Create effective research assignments

A strong research assignment “reinforces habits of ethical scholarship.”

3. Create effective research assignments

3. Create effective research assignments

1. Identify your interests
2. Select key concepts
3. Change your focus
4. Contextualize the question
5. Identify keywords

3. Create effective research assignments

What many college research assignments need:

A 3-part thesis statement:

1. The subject
2. The precise opinion
3. The blueprint of reasons

3. Create effective research assignments

Alternatives to the research paper:

1. Topic vetting
2. Web versus library database comparison
3. Research reflection
3. Create effective research assignments

What next?
4. Collaborate

Identify your library liaison:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Department</th>
<th>Liaison</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>History &amp; Social Sciences:</td>
<td>Elisabeth Gatlin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arts &amp; Humanities:</td>
<td>Paul Glassman</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nursing &amp; Physical Sciences:</td>
<td>Susan Wengler</td>
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<tr>
<td>Business &amp; Education:</td>
<td>Gerard Shea</td>
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4. Collaborate

Request a research guide

Felician College Libraries

Critical Perspectives on Literature
ENG 480

Liberal criticism

Zora Neale Hurston, Eugene O’Neill, Virginia Woolf (courtesy of Creative Commons)

This guide provides information on online databases, electronic and print reference books, and Internet resources that will help you with all aspects of your research for ENG 480: Critical Perspectives in Literature. Students who incorporate solid research into their work get higher grades and feel more successful!

Books in the Library, including electronic books

Find books & other materials: 

Use books to:
  - acquire an introductory and background information to literary criticism and related topics
  - compare ideas and conversations about a topic
  - gain exposure to interesting interpretations of texts

Literary Criticism:
An Introduction to Theory and Practice
2nd ed. - Bressler, Charles E.
Call Number: PN81.B668 1999
ISBN: 0138974225

Author of this research guide

Paul Glassman

Contact Info
Lodi Campus Library, first floor
201.556.6070
Send Email

Links:
Website / Blog
Profile & Guides
4. Collaborate

Request an assignment-based class
4. Collaborate

Require individual research appointments
5. Champion student research

- Felician College Student Library Research Award
- Undergraduate Research Week, April 2016
- National Conference on Undergraduate Research (Online submission opens October 5, 2015; student abstract submission & application deadline December 2, 2015)